

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference JTS/P13544 PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB2004/002544	International filing date (day/month/year) 14/06/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 12/06/2003
Applicant AXIOM PROCESS LIMITED		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the International search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box II).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regards to the drawings,

- a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 7

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

- b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/002544

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 B01D33/03 B07B1/46

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B01D B07B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 530 482 B1 (WISEMAN MICHAEL D) 11 March 2003 (2003-03-11) the whole document	1-5,9, 10,14
X	US 4 446 022 A (HARRY ALAN) 1 May 1984 (1984-05-01) column 4, line 51 - column 5, line 36; figures 3,4	1,2,6,7
X	EP 1 088 582 A (TUBOSCOPE I P INC) 4 April 2001 (2001-04-04) claim 1; figures 3,4	1,2,6,7
X	DE 42 10 770 A (KAUFMANN FRIEDHELM) 7 October 1993 (1993-10-07) column 5, line 52 - column 6, line 16; figure 1	1,2
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 September 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

17/09/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Hild, U

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/002544

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 940 535 A (FISHER WILLIAM F ET AL) 10 July 1990 (1990-07-10) column 3, line 24 - column 4, line 36; figures 2-4 -----	1-3, 9-11,16, 17
A	US 5 614 094 A (DEISTER E MARK ET AL) 25 March 1997 (1997-03-25) column 5, line 27 - column 6, line 32; claim 1; figures 2,4 -----	1,2,6,7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/002544

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6530482	B1	11-03-2003	AU 5569901 A WO 0181014 A2	07-11-2001 01-11-2001
US 4446022	A	01-05-1984	GB 2055597 A GB 2055598 A , B US 4306974 A	11-03-1981 11-03-1981 22-12-1981
EP 1088582	A	04-04-2001	US 5641070 A EP 1088582 A2 AT 203178 T DE 69613973 D1 DE 69613973 T2 DE 69628953 D1 DE 69628953 T2 WO 9633792 A1 EP 0822853 A1 NO 974081 A	24-06-1997 04-04-2001 15-08-2001 23-08-2001 08-11-2001 07-08-2003 24-12-2003 31-10-1996 11-02-1998 10-10-1997
DE 4210770	A	07-10-1993	DE 4210770 A1	07-10-1993
US 4940535	A	10-07-1990	NONE	
US 5614094	A	25-03-1997	NONE	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/GB2004/002544

Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

The present invention provides a vibratory screening apparatus (1) for use in removing solids from a liquid feed, and a basket (4) therefor. The apparatus comprises a static outer housing (2), and a floating basket vibratable by a vibrator device (10). The basket mounts a stack (7) of screen assemblies (8) provided with respective flow directing trays (9) for receiving filtrates from the screen assemblies. A flow distributor (15) divides the feed into at least first and a second feed streams and directs them onto respective screen assemblies, and receives from the flow directing trays, filtrates from respective screen assemblies.